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Letters to the Editor

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Bungling in CIA?

Our people pay for their security by maintaining and tolerating the necessary evils of secret police and intelligence agencies. Since freedom and secrecy are alien concepts, it is only when secrecy accomplishes that which open adjudication cannot, that it justifies the money and trust placed in it by the citizenry.

Such is the example of the FBI. Although frequently accused of aborting free democratic processes, the FBI nevertheless stands as an active instrument, available to all, in the continuance of American freedom.

Can the same be said of the Central Intelligence Agency? I note in recent headlines that the CIA is expanding its physical facilities at considerable expense to the taxpayer. I further know that many of my friends, educated, intelligent people, are being paid good salaries by that agency for their services. Lastly, I know that my money is being spent by the CIA somewhere, somehow, to do something.

What is the CIA doing? In the light of current events, I must conclude that it does nothing.

Surely the people do not expect miracles. We do not expect our agents to be aware of every movement contemplated or accomplished behind the armed borders of the Communist nations. But we do expect the very minimum of active surveillance in other areas of the world. Therefore, when two of our closest allies, countries in which freedom of movement and expression are afforded to all American visitors, launch an armed aggression without our previous knowledge, and to our complete present surprise and dismay, I call that ignorance the grossest form of bungling on the part of the CIA.

In another Government agen-

cy, such bungling would affect only my pocketbook, and I would be disturbed. In this case, in the realm of international relations and ultimate consequences, such conduct threatens my very life, and I am angered.

A Herblock cartoon comes to mind: two men, standing with trousers at half-mast, mouths agape, watching John Bull charging into Egypt. The caption?

On the shores of the
Potomac
For all the world to see
The omniscient Dulles
brothers

Tweedledum, Tweedledee.

The American people share in their embarrassment. But in a like international circumstance, the consequences could be different. Then the lowered trousers would be replaced by chains, the mouths closed by tape.

Will the people share that, too?

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